

PREACHERS URGE MAYOR TO BOOST FIREMEN'S WAGES

Methodist Association
Takes Up Fight for Bet-
ter Pay and Hours

COUNCILMEN WILL AID

Councilmen Pledge Aid in Firemen's Campaign

COUNCILMEN pledge individual support to firemen's campaign for shorter hours and fair living wage. Members of Councils promise to attend meeting tonight of Hose and Laddermen's Association. Methodist Preachers' Association today appoints committee to wait upon Mayor and urge action that will better firemen's living conditions. United Business Men's Association and affiliated bodies join movement, adopting resolutions calling upon the Mayor and Councils to take action requested by firemen.

The Methodist Preachers' Association, at its meeting today unanimously adopted resolutions supporting the firemen of Philadelphia in their efforts to obtain a readjustment of working hours and a more equitable salary. Further, the association appointed a committee to visit the Mayor on behalf of the firemen and to urge upon the city's executive the necessity for early action looking to the firemen's betterment. Two members of the firemen's campaign committee were invited to attend the meeting, which was held in Matthew Simpson Hall, Wesley Building, Seventeenth and Arch streets. Lieutenants John Wills and Ladderman James Simister attended. After the opening prayer and disposition of preliminary business, the Rev. E. D. Hoffman, who presided, called upon the firemen to address the meeting. Both responded briefly, but the cogency of their arguments was so effective that they had scarcely ceased speaking when the Rev. Dr. George H. Bickley proposed the naming of a committee to wait upon the Mayor in the interest of public justice and ask that official to urge upon Councils the necessary legislation to give the firemen the relief asked for.

JUSTICE OF CAUSE
The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Adamson, in seconding the motion, remarked that the publicity already given to the campaign had induced him to make personal investigation of the firemen's lot, and that, as a result, he was convinced of the full justice of their cause. Doctor Hoffman named Doctors Bickley and Adamson, with the Rev. Dr. John Watchorn, as members of the committee to see the Mayor.

In addition to the formal action of the Preachers' Association, several prominent members of that body today expressed their individual sentiments in favor of the firemen's efforts to obtain a fair living wage and an opportunity to see their wives and families other than the few minutes possible under existing regulations. Among those clergymen declaring their hearty sympathy with the movement was Bishop Thomas B. Neely, who pledged his earnest support and sympathy to the members of the committee. The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. McKenty, whose brother, Robert J. McKenty, is a former Director of Public Safety, was also outspoken in his expressions of support and encouragement to the firemen. He promised to make personal effort to bring the matter before the city officials in the name of justice, and pledged the co-operation of his brother, now warden

of the Eastern Penitentiary, in their behalf.

McKENNY'S WORK
Warden McKenty, when Director, succeeded in obtaining for the police an increase of pay, and reorganized the detectives on an equalized salary basis. He also established a better system of pay for the House of Correction guards. These evidences of interest were cited by the Rev. Doctor McKenty as guarantees that the warden would support the men of the Fire Bureau.

Public sentiment in behalf of the firemen today took such form that the leaders in the campaign are beginning to feel that Mayor Smith and Councils will recognize the situation as one where any movement toward its alleviation will popularly be regarded as a master-stroke for justice and humanity. Despite the Mayor's expressed opposition to increasing the city payroll at this time, it is felt that the granting of the firemen's request would be looked upon as redounding to the credit of the Administration sanctioning it, and at the same time making for the added efficiency of the service itself.

COUNCILMEN WILL HELP
Several members of Councils, inspired by the growing impetus of the campaign of publicity, have signified their intention to attend a meeting of the Hose and Laddermen's Association tonight, when the question of pay and hours will be discussed. The Councilmen in question voluntarily requested permission to attend the meeting, which will be held in Veteran Firemen's Hall, Tenth street above Brown. In making the suggestion to the committee in charge of the firemen's campaign the Councilmen took occasion to declare their hearty co-operation with the firemen's efforts and to pledge support to any relieving measure which might come before Councils.

INDICATES POPULAR SYMPATHY
This action on the part of members of Councils is received by the firemen as indicative of an aroused public sentiment in favor of their appeal. Although Mayor Smith has given no intimation of his intention in the matter of the petition presented to him last Tuesday, the firemen are hopeful that his delay in announcing his position is favorable to their cause. They see also in the interest being manifested in their behalf by members of Councils the beginning of popular pressure to bring about a revision of their pay schedule that will place them on a footing with the firefighters of other cities.

Invitations to attend tonight's meeting of the Hose and Laddermen's Association have been extended to members of the Finance Committee and several other Councilmen. The firemen feel that Councilman's disregard of their condition has arisen, not from any intent to slight or overlook the firemen, but from unfamiliarity with the actual working conditions under which they labor.

This lack of acquaintance with the regulations of the Fire Bureau is by no means restricted to the private citizen. A former Councilman, chairman of the Finance Committee at the time, in visiting a fire station expressed surprise that beds were in use.

"I always supposed you men were so disposed that half of your company slept at home during the night and that the others went off when the first squad returned to the engine house."

The impression prevailing today among Councilmen, the firemen believe, is different, and the change of feeling is growing more and more favorable to the men of the bureau as existing conditions and the need for remedy therefor become apparent.

The action of Senator Penrose in openly pledging his support to the movement, and the signing of the firemen's petition by State Senators Vane and McNichol, it is believed by the firemen, presages a non-partisan approval of the movement for higher wages.

TO INTEREST REALTY MEN
Additional impetus was given to the campaign when members of the campaign committee, prompted by the growing feeling of approval that is following their efforts to enlist public support, took up the question of interesting real estate men in their behalf. The realty men have been the most persistent and active opponents of increasing the tax rate for next year. To provide the sum necessary to grant the additional



MISS SYLVIA POLIN
The seventeen-year-old girl whose cries for help routed four crackers who were trying to break open the safe in her father's store at 429 Ritner street during the early hours today.

pay and men asked by the firemen a tax jump of 2 1/2 cents would furnish adequate funds, if other means of municipal financing should fail. The firemen feel that even if this last recourse were resorted to the real estate men would submit the more willingly if they knew the money was to be employed to place the fire protection of the city and their properties on a higher efficiency and more secure basis.

Some members of Councils have not waited for more formal request or manifestation of public will, but have written to the Campaign Committee promising their support. An ordinance, drafted by a Councilman rated as an Independent, and presented by a member affiliated with the Republican organization, has been prepared. A member of Common Council, acknowledging receipt of a copy of the firemen's petition, wrote as follows, his letter being typical of other similar communications in possession of the committee: "You may rest assured that I appreciate the necessity for a change in salary and hours. I will gladly vote and work in your behalf, and if in

any other way I can be of service to you, kindly let me know."

The United Business Men's Association, as have many of the seventy-seven bodies affiliated with that organization, has adopted resolutions calling upon the Mayor to grant the firemen's request. Several prominent merchants and manufacturers have added their personal appeal in this direction and the number of such endorsements is growing daily.

While the Mayor has announced himself as opposed to salary increases for municipal employees at this time, owing to the city's financial condition, the advocates of the firemen's campaign point out that the sum required for the purpose of giving the firemen a fair living wage can be obtained by transfer of appropriation items for purposes less needed at this time and for which there is not so great a popular demand or which are not prompted by such a sense of justice and fair play in return for service fearlessly and unselfishly given by a body of men who daily risk their lives for the benefit of others at a recompense that compares only with that given to the minor clerks and subordinates of other departments and bureaus, whose work is performed in absolute safety and in shorter hours and with numerous holidays.

WOMAN, 70, ASKS DIVORCE

Plaintiff Married in 1907 While Facing Alienation Suit

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Nov. 20.—Mrs. Rebecca D. Gunton, of Hot Springs, will begin action for divorce against George Gunton today.

Mrs. Gunton, who is more than seventy years old, was the widow of William B. Lowe, of Atlanta, Ga., a wealthy financier, who died in 1901. She is a suffragist and was president for many years of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She married Mr. Gunton in Lewisburg, W. Va., on June 6, 1907, while she was facing a suit for alienation of affections brought by Mr. Gunton's first wife.

Mr. Gunton, an Englishman, came to America in 1874. In 1899 he became president of the Institute of Social Economics and editor of the Social Economist, which in 1906 was changed to Gunton's Magazine, of which he was the editor. He is seventy years old.

The couple lived at Gunton Lodge, Hot Springs, until July, 1915, when they separated. Mrs. Gunton has two children by her first marriage, Baroness Rosenkrantz, of London, and William B. Lowe, of New York. Mr. Gunton has several children by his first marriage.

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Flesh, white and suit shades, exquisitely beaded, braided and frilled. Satin combinations and puff sleeves.

New Blouses, \$2.25
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Crepe de chine, chiffons, crepes, georgette and chiffons in tailored and dressy styles.

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\$1.00 values
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You want for Thanksgiving is here—and the price is only
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Good-looking mixtures, velours, boucles, corduroys, matelams, diagonals, tibets and wool plushes, in the flare, belted and semi-form-fitting models so popular just now. These coats have large sailor and convertible collars, some trimmed with plain and beaver plush.

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Black Fox Muffs, \$7.50
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A "Service Plus Style" Combination that will win your approval.
New Suits \$9.00

Smart flare and belted effects of serge, poplins and gabardines. Satin lined and handsomely trimmed with opossum, near seal and velvet on collars, cuffs and some on edge of coats. The attractive range of colors includes navy, black, green, brown and Burgundy.